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BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1966.

B O R O U G H O F L U D L O W

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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P U B L I C H E A L T H O F F I C E R S .

Medical Officer of Health

Elizabeth Capper, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

H.V.James, M.A.P.H.I., M.I.Mun. E.

Public Health Laboratory Service


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Report of the Medical Officer of Health

Ludlow Borough 1966

Rural District Council Offices,

Ludlow.

To the Members of the Ludlow Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the last Annual Report on the health of the Ludlow Borough for 1966.

The vital statistics indicate a healthy population. The Birth Rate has fallen returning to the average for the years prior to 1965. There is a slight rise in the Death Rate making it higher than that for England and Wales for the first time. But when dealing with small numbers such occasional deviations are of less importance than trends over the years. The steady increase in population continues and there has been no increase in the illegitimate Birth Rate.

There are still too many houses without amenities which ought to be accepted as minimal now i.e. hot water, bath and indoor W.C. Again I have to report that the Slum Clearance Programme is in abeyance because of lack of progress in Council House building. A large Housing Programme is needed for this and for the larger number of people on the waiting list. Young married people have little hope of decent housing in the town and this must result in much stress and strain affecting both themselves and their young children.

Conditions at the tip have continued to deteriorate, the present method of hiring equipment and men has resulted in virtually uncontrolled tipping.

The Public Health Inspector has continued to do his best to cope with all the work, without any additional help, and I am very grateful to him for this cheerful help and co-operation and to all my colleagues for their help during this last full year of work for the Ludlow Borough Council before the forthcoming amalgamation with the Rural District Council early next year.

Elizabeth Capper.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICSLive Births

Number	Male 66	Female 41	Total	107
Rate per 1,000 population				15.11
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births)				3.74

Still Births

Number	Male 2	Female 1	Total	3
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				27.27

Total Live and Still Births 110

Infant Deaths (Death under 1 year)

Male 0	Female 2	2
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Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	18.69
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	9.71
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	250

Neo-natal Mortality Rates (Death under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) 9.35

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) 9.35

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births) 36.36

Maternal Mortality Rate

Number of deaths 0

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 0

Crude Death Rate 17.37

Standardised Death Rate 13.9

Standardised Birth Rate 15.71

Rates for England and Wales 1966

Birth Rate	17.7
Death Rate	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	19.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	12.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate	26.3

Deaths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from all causes	68	55	123

Causes of Death

Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Malignant disease : Stomach	1	1	2
Malignant disease : Lung	3	1	4
Malignant disease : Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	5	9
Leukaemia : Aleukaemia	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	20	30
Coronary Disease Angina	18	7	25
Other Heart Diseases	6	4	10
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	1	5
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	6	5	11
Bronchitis	7	3	10
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	1	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	1	0	1
	<u>68</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>123</u>

General Statistics and Notes on Vital Statistics

Area (in acres)	1,068
Registrar Generals Estimate of population	7,080
Number of inhabited houses	2,505

The population of the Borough increased by 90 in 1966. Last year the increase was 80 and in 1964 it was 110. The steady increase in population is being maintained.

Births.

There were 107 live births, giving a Birth Rate of 15.11 per thousand. The Birth Rate is increasing gradually and there is no increase in the percentage of illegitimate biths.

Still Births.

The Still Birth Rate is nearly double that for recent years.

Infant Mortality.

Both of the infants who died were females, one dying within the first week of life and the other within the first month.

The falling tendency of the Infant Mortality Rate has continued again this year.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths.

Deaths

There were 123 deaths (68 Male 55 Female) compared with 103 last year. Both the crude and standardised death rates are slightly higher.

Until last year diseases of the heart and circulation causes about 50% of the deaths - last year this figure went up to 54% and this year it is 57%.

Respiratory diseases causes 18.6% of the deaths - except for 1962 when this figure was 19.3% this figure has been below 10%.

Cancer caused 13% of the deaths - compared with 16.5% last year.

General Provisions of the Health Services

Staff.

There were no changes in staff during the year.

The Medical Officer of Health has continued to devote the Monday morning session for Borough duties - except for the second Monday in the month. During that week the session is altered to Thursday Mornings. In case of emergency she can always be found by application to the County Health Office - telephone Shrewsbury 52211.

The Public Health Inspector has continued to try to cope with the ever increasing volume of work without any increase in staff.

Laboratory Services.

Dr. Jones and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory examine, and comment on the results, water samples from both the water supplies and the swimming bath and are always available for help and advice. For this we are very grateful.

Ambulance Service.

The new depot at Craven Arms has now been in use for a year. In cases of accidents the ambulance should be called immediately by making an emergency 999 telephone call. The switchboard operator at the Ambulance Control in Shrewsbury can then summon the nearest available ambulance and there is the minimum of delay. She can also be consulted about contacting police, fire brigade and doctors if required.

Nursing Services.

Two Health Visitors have been working in the Borough and surrounding Rural District. One Home Nurse and one District Nurse/Midwife have worked part time in the Borough with help from neighbouring District Nurses.

Veneral Diseases Clinic.

Belmont, Shrewsbury

Males	Tuesdays and Fridays	6.0.p.m. - 8.0. p.m.
Females	Mondays	3.30p.m. - 5.30p.m.
	Thursdays	5.0.p.m. - 7.0. p.m.

We have no information about the number of people attending this clinic from Ludlow Borough

Public Lavatories.

The new Public Conveniences at the Upper Galdeford Car Park were open at the beginning of the year and so the old Public Conveniences in Tower Street were closed.

Because of various difficulties it has not been possible to start the much needed improvements to the Public Conveniences at Linney.

Social Services.

Unfortunately it is impossible even just to mention all the organisations in the town who undertake this work. The Old Peoples Welfare Committee is trying to co-ordinate the work to some extent, especially as it affects the larger number of elderly people in the town. The Womens Royal Voluntary Service have continued their excellent work, of both taking hot meals to the old people and giving their friendship, and help in many ways.

The Secondary Schools' Social Service Scheme is continuing to prosper and the boys and girls are looking for new ways to help people in the town. Unfortunately young people receive little publicity for this type of activity.

Child Welfare Centres.

Dinham	Mondays	1-30.p.m. - 4.30.p.m.
New Street	Thursdays	1.30.p.m. - 4.30.p.m.

A doctor attends Dinham Clinic every week and the Clinic at New Street on the second and fourth Thursdays in the month.

Special clinics are held at the Dinham Centre with attendance by appointment as follows:-

Dental, Audiology, Immunisation and Vaccination, Speech Therapy, Child Guidance, Chest Diseases, Mothercraft and Relaxation.

There are no facilities in the New Street premises for such special clinics but in spite of lack of facilities there, the New Street Child Welfare Clinic is becoming more popular apparently, than the clinic in the better premises in Dinham.

Family Planning.

The nearest Family Planning Association Clinics are at Shrewsbury, Hereford, Kidderminster and Leominster. Further details may be obtained from a Family Doctor or at the Child Welfare Centres.

Home Helps.

There were 11 Home Helps working in the Borough, the work being mainly with the old people. Again their services were not required for Midwifery cases. The full charge is 5/6d an hour but this is adjusted according to the ability to pay.

Sanitary Circumstances of the AreaWater Supplies

The water supply has been adequate in amount for the Borough but there are still 76 houses supplied by standpipes.

Number of houses supplied from public mains direct to houses	2,429
Number of houses supplied from public mains by standpipe	76
Number of houses supplied from private main or well, stream, pump, etc.	NIL
Number of bacteriological samples from public mains supply	74
Satisfactory	68
Unsatisfactory	6
Number of Chemical Samples from public mains supplies	2
These were both satisfactory.	

No samples of water indicated liability to plumbo solvent action.

The East Shropshire Water Board was immediately notified when samples were unsatisfactory.

Regular sampling of the main waters is to be undertaken by them - according to information given in the Board's Report. The Report also gives details of the chlorination plants in use.

Swimming Bath.

Main water is used to fill the bath and it is emptied and cleaned each winter. The water is treated by break-point chlorination and filtration. The attendants test for free chlorine and there were 25 bacteriological tests made - of these 3 were found to be unsatisfactory.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The new sewage works is very satisfactory - weekly samples of effluent are tested by the staff there with a field set, and one sample examined by the public analyst was very satisfactory.

The contract for the new brick sewer was commenced in March, 1966 and is due for completion in May, 1967 but the work is now behind schedule.

Number of houses connected to Local Authority Sewage Disposal Works	2,446
Number of houses connected to satisfactory private plants	37
Number of houses without satisfactory means of sewerage (Using chemical, pail, earth or privy closets)	22

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse is collected from all premises weekly, but from Hotels, Cafes, Snack Bars etc., twice weekly and more frequently, if required, during the holiday season.

Conditions at the tip have deteriorated gradually since hired equipment was used in place of the Council's own bulldozer. Controlled tipping is not now being carried out - with consequent increased risk of nuisance.

Rodent Control

Periodic surveys of the main sewers, tip, sewage works and other Council properties were made - also empty premises - and satisfactory treatments were carried out as required.

Business and agricultural premises and private dwellings were visited and treated as the need arose.

Factories, Workshops Acts, 1937 and 1948

There are 96 factories in the Borough - 88 with mechanical power and 8 without.

Particulars of the inspections made and action taken are not available.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Class of Premises.	No. of premises registered during the year.	No. of Registered premises at the end of the year.	No. of registered Premises receiving general inspection during the year
Offices	4	71	40
Retail Shops	5	96	55
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	4	4
Catering Establishments	2	17	17
Fuel Storage Depots	<u>-</u> 11	<u>-</u> 188	<u>-</u> 116

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises 150.

No contraventions were found.

There were no applications for exemptions received.

S E C T I O N D

Housing

Number of inhabited houses, including units of accommodation at business premises	2,505
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Number of houses owned by Local Authority	675
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Houses completed in 1966

a) Council	4
b) Private	62

Houses in course
of erection

a) Council	0
b) Private	33

It was estimated that the house building programme for 1967 for slum clearance and other purposes should be 183 dwellings.

Overcrowding - Number of houses overcrowded at 31.12.66. - not known.
Number of overcrowded families rehoused during the
year - 4

Number of applicants on Housing List 31.12.66.	454
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Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants	19
10 of these were owner occupied	

Standard Grants	3
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Houses demolished	15
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Unfit houses closed	0
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Unfit houses made fit after determining Closing Orders.	2
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Demolition Orders made	3
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Inspection and Supervision of FoodMeat Inspection

Arrangements at the three slaughterhouses are satisfactory, slaughtering is on a very small scale in two of them.

<u>Carcases Inspected</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Killed	1,192	10	8,451	3,137
No. not inspected	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

All diseases except
Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis

Whole carases condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Some part or organ condemned	246	1	115	126

Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcasses condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Some part or organ condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	28

<u>Cysticercus Bovis</u>	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
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There are no poultry processing premises in the Borough.

Unsound Food Surrendered as Condemned

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat at Slaughterhouse	1	15	0
Meat at Wholesale Premises		NIL	
Meat at Retail Shops			12
Cooked Meat and Meat Products			32
Canned Meats			98
Fish		1	40
Fruit & Vegetables		2	76
Other Foods			33

10 samples of foods were taken by County Council Officers and found to be satisfactory, a cake sample was unsatisfactory. There were 5 unsatisfactory milk samples dealt with by the County Council Sanitary Inspectors.

S E C T I O N F

Prevention & Control of Infectious Diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received:-

	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>
Acute Pneumonia	2	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	2	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	7
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1

The number of infectious diseases notified was even lower than last year.

The sources of infection in the dysentery cases could not be traced and the causation agent could not be found in the food poisoning cases.

Both cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were in the 50-60 year age group. One of these were found when the contacts of a school child were examined who had a positive skin test prior to B.C.G. vaccination. Last year only one case of tuberculosis was notified and there were none in 1964.

Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register : December, 1966

Pulmonary	40
Non-pulmonary	6
Notified during the year	2
Transferred in	1
Transferred out	1
Cured	3
Died	1

Because of a change in the statistical methods at the County Health Offices details of immunisation and vaccination figures for Ludlow Borough are not available.

